4th Conference on Advancing Renewable Investments

Venue: Hotel InterContinental, Ljubljana, Slovenia
Date: 10 & 11 December 2026

DAY 1
10 December 2026

11:30 – 12:30 Registration & Welcome Coffee

12:30 – 13:00 Opening Remarks:

- Ms. Céline Gauer – Director General for Energy, European Commission *(TBC)*
- Dr. Tomaž Žagar – State Secretary, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy of the Republic of Slovenia
- Mr. Artur Lorkowski – Director, Energy Community Secretariat

13:00- 13:30 Fireside Chat

Financing the Pre-Accession Energy Transition: From EU Alignment to Bankable Investment

Moderator: Mr. Adam Cwetsch – Head of Decarbonisation and Governance Unit, ECS

Guest: Mr. Francesco Corbo – Associate Director, Regional Head Energy for Western Balkans and Croatia, EBRD

13:30 – 14:30 Panel Debate I

Accelerating Renewables in the Energy Community: The Role of the Electricity Market Integration and Flexibility

Moderator: Ms. Jasmina Trhulj – Head of Electricity Unit, ECS

Panelists: (*TBC)*

14:30 – 15:15 Networking Coffee & Light Bites

15:15 – 16:15 Panel Debate II

Guarantees of Origin: Unlocking Market Opportunities through Mutual Recognition

Scene-setting presentation: Ms. Melissa Sokoli – DG ENER, European Commission

Moderator: Ms. Naida Hausmann – Head of Renewables Unit, ECS

Panelists:

- Mr. Daniel Arnesson – Manager Renewable Power Certificates, Veyt
- Ms. Katrien Verwimp – EECS Strategy Coordinator, Association of Issuing Bodies (AIB)
- Mr. Lorenzo Mattesini – GO Product Owner, Hungarian Power Exchange (HUPX)
- Mr. Nikola Tošić - Market Division Manager, EMS AD

16:15 – 17:15 Panel Debate III

Accelerating Renewable Energy Deployment: From Planning to Investment

Moderator: Ms. Aleksandra Bujaroska, Senior Expert in Environmental Governance, Permitting and Planning, ECS

Panelists:

- Ms. Alba Canaj – Municipality of Elbasan, Albania
- Ms. Emilija Sarafska – Municipality of Bitola, North Macedonia
- Mr. Ivan Stojanovski – Financial Director, Power Plants of North Macedonia
- Ms. Silvana Xheka – Director of Innovation, OSHEE GROUP *(TBC)*
- Mr. Dritan Nelaj – Regional Team Leader, Open Society Foundations Western Balkans *(TBC)*
- Mr. Pavle Djuric – Corporate Governance, EBRD *(TBC)*

17:15 – 17:30 Close of Day 1

19:00 Evening Reception and Dinner

- *Hosted by the Slovenian Government*

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DAY 2
11 December 2026

09:30 – 12:00 Community Energy Café: Local Energy, Lasting Impact

How Renewable Energy Communities (RECs) Can Tackle Energy Poverty and Transform Biomass Use for Sustainable Heat (interactive workshop including networking coffee break)

This interactive Community Energy Café will combine guided discussions, peer exchange, and informal networking over coffee, providing a space to share experiences, discuss challenges, and identify practical approaches to delivering sustainable heat, promoting the sustainable use of biomass, and tackling energy poverty through RECs.

Scene-setting presentations:

- Ms. Ana Kojakovic, Renewable Energy Expert, ECS
- Ms. Branislava Marsenic Maksimovic, Coordinator of the Centre for Alleviating Energy Poverty, ECS
- Ms. Mariam Darchia, Energy Consultant at Decarbonisation and Governance Unit, ECS

Expert contributions:

- Ms. Marit Berchner – Team Lead, GIZ ECO.Georgia Project
- Mr. Felix Kriedemann – Senior Policy Advisor, REScoop.eu
- Ms. Ana Džokić – Co-founder, Energy Cooperative Elektropionir, Serbia
- Ms. Katarina Trstenjak – Energy Efficiency Centre, Jožef Stefan Institute, Slovenia
- Ms. Anamari Majdandžić – Senior Expert, DOOR, Croatia
- Biomass DH cooperative, Austria *(TBC)*

12:00 – 13:00 Farewell Lunch

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